

Mr. Seeley having published his view in the 'Reader,' I concluded that he would see my letter; but I presume that he has not done so, since, in his contribution to your last Number, he makes no reference to the facts alleged in that letter.

Let me add that, while there is identity between Mr. Seeley's doctrine and my own, in so far as both ascribe the formation of bone to tensions and pressures, there is but little community between our interpretations of the physical process by which tensions and pressures have produced their effects.

HERBERT SPENCER.

37, Queen's Gardens, Bayswater,  
Nov. 8, 1866.

*On the "Fulcrum" of Calamoichthys.*

*To the Editors of the Annals and Magazine of Natural History.*

GENTLEMEN,—I shall feel obliged if you can find space in your valuable Magazine for the following note.

In the abstract of my paper on the new Ganoid Fish from Old Calabar (*Calamoichthys calabaricus*), published in the 'Annals' for August last (No. 104), the word *fulcrum* has been unfortunately used, and may lead to a mistake. The anal fin is described as follows:—"anal (with fulcrum at base anteriorly) in male large, in female small, &c." The fin has a triangularly shaped and thickened portion, covered with scales, at the anterior base of the fin-rays; there are, however, no true *fulcral scales or bones*. The words within parentheses had therefore better be deleted. A detailed description of the fish is published in the 'Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh,' vol. xxiv. part 2.

I am, Gentlemen,  
Your most obedient Servant,  
JOHN ALEX. SMITH.

Edinburgh, Oct. 29, 1866.

*The Patagonian Finner.* By Dr. BURMEISTER.

In August last a large Finner Whale was taken at the mouth of the River Plata, which I thought might be a *Sibbaldius*; but after studying the body more exactly, I think it is the same as the *Phyasalus* named *P. Patagonicus* in the Catalogue of Seals and Whales in the British Museum. I have made a good drawing of the animal; but the skeleton is lost, because it was impossible to preserve such a large animal, upwards of 58 feet long, without any assistance of good workmen, who are entirely wanting in the locality.

*On the Phocæna communis of the North Sea.*

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Professor Lilljeborg writes to me that the Porpoise (*Phocæna communis*) of the North Sea has "the front edges of the dorsal fin